CHAPTER V.—DEPARTMENTS OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES.

(i) Food Supplies.

408. Consequent on the transfer of seven Taluks of Bellary District to Mysore State from 1st October 1953, the Food Administration of the transferred territory came under the jurisdiction of the Department. With a view to avoid dislocation of work during the period of transition, Government obtained concurrence of the Board of Revenue, Madras to the existing distribution arrangements and staff being continued for a month in the first instance. The continuance of the entire Food and Civil Supplies staff in the Bellary District till the end of March 1954, was further sanctioned.

409. As a result of further measures taken to implement the policy of progressive decontrol, retrenchments in the several Food Establishments were affected from time to time during the year.

410. The continuance of the major Food Establishments in the State had been sanctioned provisionally till the end of March 1954 and in connection with the question of formulating proposals regarding their further continuance, the whole position was reviewed and it was found that in view of the reduction of work in several offices of the Department due to the availability of rice and millets in the open market and low offtakes in the distribution centres and consequential reduction in the number of Government Sales Depots in the Urban Areas, further retrenchments in Food Establishments could be effected and approval of Government for retrenchments with effect from 1st April 1954, resulting in a saving of about Rs. 3,80,000 was conveyed in February 1954.

411. The Paddy Acquisition (Harvest) Order, 1952, promulgated in November 1952, was repealed with effect from 1st June 1953. Procurement of Paddy.

412. With the concurrence of the Government of India, the scheme of Voluntary Purchase of Paddy by Government direct from the growers at the fixed price of Rs. 22,

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per palla of paddy of I variety and of Rs. 20 per palla of paddy of II variety was announced in December 1953.

413. A quantity of 3,55,420 pallas of paddy was purchased under the above scheme during the year as against 12,45,147 pallas procured during the previous year under the levy system of procurement.

Import Quotas.

414. The year was marked by a period of affluence of rice and scarcity of millets. Consequent upon the failure of the millets crop during the previous year the price of millets in the open market shot up considerably and Government had to import during the year large quantities of millets from various sources to make up the deficiency of millets in the State and to check the soaring prices.

415. A total quantity of 72,672 tons of foodgrains consisting of 5,921 tons of rice, 17,000 tons of wheat and 49,751 tons of millets were imported into the State during the year as against 1,34,053 tons of foodgrains consisting of 13,038 tons of rice, 51,486 tons of wheat and 69,529 tons of millets during the previous year.

Stocks and Distribution.

416. The year was marked by distinct improvement over the previous year in regard to seasonal conditi ons particularly in the latter part. Rainfall was both adequate and timely with the result that the final estimates of Khariff production for 1953-54, as compared to the previous year were as follows :—

Crop	1953-54		1952-53	
	Acreage	Yield	Acreage	Yield
		(Pallas)		(Pallas)
Paddy	8,45,169	54,51,458	7,48,569	38,49,102
Ragi	18,89,029	48,82,476	16,10,356	18,57,191
Jola	9,44,043	19 25,041	4,55,641	3,24,431
Minor Millets	8,54,498	14,62,665	2,54,627	1,79,578

Scale of rationing.

417. With the termination of statutory rationing with effect from 1st May 1953, in the Cities of Bangalore including Civil Station, Kolar Gold Fields and Davangere, the whole State came under informal rationing. The scales of issues of rice, wheat and millets were stepped up to 9·6 ozs., 12 ozs. and 9 ozs. with effect, from 8th January 1954, 4th December 1953 and 31st December 1953, respectively. Later on the scale of rice issue was further stepped

up to 12 ozs. from 23rd February 1954 and 16 ozs. from 27th April 1954 and that of millets issue was reduced to 6 ozs. from 1st February 1954.

418. As in previous years, the distribution of foodgrains was continued through the Government Depots, Co-operative Societies, etc. The number of Government Depots was gradually reduced with the progress of free trade in foodgrains, to minimise the cost of distribution to Government. The number of retail shops distributing Government stocks of foodgrains at the end of year was 1,290 (1,706). Distribution of Foodgrains.

419. The Central Foodgrains (Licensing and Procurement) Order, 1952, was working satisfactorily in the State, as many as 1,107 licensed dealers having been trading in foodgrains at the end of the year in the several Districts of the State. Apart from these dealers a large number of petty dealers as well as growers were exempted from the provisions of the order. Dealers in Government Stocks of foodgrains were also brought within the purview of the order by requiring them to obtain exemption certificates and to transact in Government stocks only subject to the other conditions stipulated analogous to those prescribed under the Licensing of Food Distribution Order, 1951 (since repealed). As a result of these measures instituted under the Foodgrains Order, 1952, the transactions of foodgrains by all classes of dealers were brought under strict check and control, enabling the conservation of the foodgrains resources of the State for the benefit of the consumers in the State who were able to get their maximum requirements of foodgrains according to their tastes and at reasonable prices.

420. With the revival of free trade subject to the stipulations under the Foodgrains Order, 1952, the run on Government depots for supplies decreased enormously, but stocks were made available to intending consumers through Government agency in all parts of the State, so as to avoid difficulties of scarcity or high prices that might be occasioned in the absence of the Government organisation. The demand from this Section of consumers was considerably reduced during the year owing obviously to the free availability in the open market at rates almost on a par with the rates of Government supplies. Issue to large employers.

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421. The accepted policy of gradual decontrol having been pursued during the year there was both reduction of commitments and of stocks, making adequate provision, however, for any emergency. Pursuant therewith the local procurement was confined to paddy purchases from voluntary offers of growers, and imports from outside were confined to wheat and millets on a very moderate scale. Issues were also liberalised in the latter half of the year so as to enable quicker consumption of stocks. As a result of these measures the stocks were reduced leaving yet substantial quantities more particularly under paddy and rice.

Internal movement of foodgrains.

422. The inter-district movement of foodgrains was, as usual, primarily confined to rice from the Districts of Shimoga, Mysore, Mandya, Hassan and Chikmagalur to the deficit areas, *viz.*, Bangalore and Mysore Cities, Kolar Gold Fields and Kolar, Bangalore, Tumkur and Chitaldrug Districts. Millets and wheat were also moved occasionally from some units in small quantities. Apart from internal movements, as much as 1,72,477 pallas of rice were despatched to the Travancore-Cochin State under the allotment fixed by the Government of India, as a result of the large quantities of rice left with the State and the urgent need for supplies of rice in Travancore-Cochin State.

Rice Mills.

423. The scheme of utilisation of the services of the Rice Mill owners in the procurement of paddy and its hulling and despatch of rice under the same terms of agreement as in previous years was continued during the year.

424. The statutory control over rice mills introduced by Government in August 1951 was continued throughout the year, licenses issued in the previous years having been generally renewed and applications for fresh licenses having also been granted in the several districts.

425. The control over rice hullers imposed in December 1949, was also continued throughout the year, licensing of hullers being continued on the lines of the Government policy announced in their Press Note dated 19th February 1952, till 8th March 1954, when the restrictions on the issue of licenses to hullers installed after 1st January 1951 and renewal of licenses issued to hullers without certain improvements, were withdrawn in March 1954.

426. The security deposit of Rs. 250 prescribed for hullers in March 1950 was waived in respect of hullers in paddy deficit districts in September 1953 and reduced to Rs. 100 in the case of hullers in paddy surplus districts in February 1954.

Foodgrains preservation.

427. The usual measures of pest control and sanitation such as cleaning of the premises, brushing the stocks, fumigation of infested grain, dusting, etc., were conducted periodically in all the Government godowns in Bangalore and in other places wherever found necessary.

Rationing.

428. The statutory rationing in the three Cities of Bangalore, Davangere and Kolar Gold Fields was abolished with effect from 1st May 1953 in pursuance of the policy of progressive decontrol adopted by Government in May 1953. With a view to obviate inconvenience to the public during the period of transition, the existing ration shops were continued as fair price shops.

Austerity Measures.

429. There was no restriction with regard to the use of cereals and other erstwhile rationed articles in hotels and restaurants during the period. There was also no restriction regarding the number of people to be fed during entertainments and funerals, etc.

430. In view of the favourable food position in the State and as a measure of further relaxation of controls, the Mysore Food (Austerity Measures in Service of Meals) Order, 1951 was repealed in February 1954 thus removing the ban even on the opening of new catering establishments.

Sugar and Jaggery.

431. The sugar and jaggery supply position in the State continued to remain satisfactory during the year.

Bangalore Fuel Supplies.

432. The system of obtaining supplies of fuel direct from the suppliers and the distribution of the same through the retail dealers was continued during the year. With measures for progressive decontrol a large number of people took up to fuel trade on private account and fuel began to flow into Bangalore from mofussil places by head-loads and cart-loads as in the precontrol days. The supply position of fuel therefore continued to be satisfactory during the year. A sum of Rs. 46,380 was realised as commission to Government on the issues of fuel made to the licensees.

General.

433. The year may be characterised as a year of transition from conditions of acute scarcity of foodgrains and of stringent control to those of relative plenty

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and of almost complete decontrol. The year marked almost the first year since 1942 when conditions approaching to plenty in regard to the production of foodgrains came to prevail in the State due to the exceptionally good and timely showers and the gradual maturing of the schemes for Growing More Food, actually leaving a surplus quantity of over 80,000 tons of rice with the Government at the close of the year.

(ii) Department of Food Production.

434. The Department of Food Production which was started in October 1949 was continued during the year.

435. The names of the several schemes that were in operation during the year and the financial assistance received from the Government of India were as follows :—

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount sanctioned by Government of India	
		Grant	Loan
		Rs.	Rs.
1	Multiplication and distribution of improved varieties of seeds.	95,078	...
2	Manufacture and distribution of urban compost.	75,475	...
3	Protective measures against pests and diseases.	20,000	...
4	Establishment of additional Deputy Director, G.M.C. Scheme.	19,501	...
5	Preparation and distribution of manure mixtures.	1,51,278	...
6	Subsidy for the construction of irrigation wells.	1,87,500	11,25,000
7	Construction of big tanks ...	...	
8	Improvement of river, tank and feeder channels.	...	15,00,000
9	Construction and Restoration of tanks and minor irrigation works.	...	6,25,000 12,00,000
10	Restoration of tanks by desilting ...	...	
11	Land Improvement Schemes ...	...	5 00,000
12	Extension of Electric Power Supply for irrigation.	...	6,00,000 50,00,000
13	Loan for purchase of pump sets ...	...	
14	Scheme for short term loans for manure and fertilisers.	...	10,00,000 16,75,000
15	Bangalore City Sewage Scheme ...	...	6,00,000
16	Mysore City Sewage Scheme ...	...	80,000
17	Loan for issue of tractors on h.p.s. ...	...	2,50,000

436. The schemes implemented under the Grow More Food Campaign during the year were classified under the following categories :—

1. Works Schemes.
2. Supply Schemes.
3. Service and
4. Miscellaneous Schemes.